



VIU PhD academy Transversal SKILLS For Young SCHOLARS

**Everything you always wanted to know about
becoming a researcher (but were afraid to ask)
– Transversal Skills for Young Scholars**

September 20-24, 2021

**Venice International University
Isola di San Servolo, Venice**



VIU International PhD Academy

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University

Scientific Coordinators:

Daniele Archibugi
Italian National Research
Council (CNR)

John Creemers
KU Leuven

Gregor Dugar
University of Ljubljana

The academic community is becoming more and more competitive and, besides the content specific to each discipline, there are some general norms and customs that are common to all of them. How should a research project be presented? What happens when a paper is submitted to a journal? How to present a paper in an international convention? The aim of this PhD Academy is to familiarise young researchers with the so-called Transversal-skills of the academic community.

This Academy will be devoted to present and discuss some of the practices used in universities and research institutions. Students will have the opportunity to carry out exercises and simulations and then to get the comments of senior experts in the field.

Some of the current practices will also be critically assessed: are we sure that in an Internet-led society the concept of plagiarism has the same meaning than in the past? Are reference letters really useful? Is it worth to submit works to highly selective journals when most of the knowledge produced can be accessible on open-source websites?

The PhD Academy will be highly interactive with several practical exercises. Through the participation of students from various disciplinary backgrounds (humanities, social sciences, hard sciences), it will also explore similarities and differences across disciplines in the practice of the academic community.

This PhD Academy will be led by:

- Italian National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Faculty

Daniele Archibugi, Italian National Research Council (CNR)

John Creemers, KU Leuven

Gregor Dugar, University of Ljubljana

Purpose

The need to train young researchers is more and more important for academic institutions. The number of PhD students exceeds several times the number of jobs in the academic world, and competition is very severe. Research activities are evaluated according to several criteria (including scientific output, funding secured, impact on the public opinion), and young researchers, even when they are good researchers, should learn how to navigate in these uncharted waters. Universities have a responsibility to prepare their PhD students also for the world outside academia and need to convince non-academic partners that a PhD provides a variety of skills.

Topics

- What are the social challenges that researchers need to address?
- Choosing your mentors
- Building a scientific network
- How to publish your research
- How to present a research project
- Applying for a job: your CV and reference letters
- Applying for funding: the case of European Commission grants
- How to communicate your research to mass-media and public opinion
- Science, politics and society

Learning outcomes for participants

The program provides participants with advanced skills for successfully implementing their PhD research projects into the real world.

Exercises

- Assess your comparative skills
- Assess your mentors
- Map your epistemic community
- Strengths and weaknesses of your CV
- Write the most important reference letter: yours!
- Writing a book proposal
- The Bermuda Triangle: authors, editors and referees
- Present the PhD topic in 180 seconds
- Write a press release about your research
- A 120 second TV interview

Who can apply?

This international PhD Academy is offered to PhD students and Post-docs across all disciplines. Specifically, the class will try to combine students in social sciences, humanities and hard sciences. Open to candidates from all the VIU Member Institutions; applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated.

Fees & Grant Support

Students from the VIU member institutions will pay no participation fees. Grant support is also available to support, partially or fully, the costs of international travel and accommodation.

The participation fee for students of non-member institutions is Euro 1.100 (incl. VAT). The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support. VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

The final program will be available on the VIU website

Applications

Deadline extended until May 30, 2021 via the VIU website

Applicants must submit the (1) application form, (2) a letter of motivation – which should include a short bio and a brief description of the candidate's research project, (3) a curriculum vitae and (4) a photo.

For further information: phdacademy@univiu.org

As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, VIU will continue to monitor the situation, and in the event that it is not possible to confirm the program on the VIU campus as scheduled, other practicable solutions will be evaluated. Applicants and confirmed participants will be informed of any changes.

VIU International PhD Academies

Venice International University is a consortium of 20 universities, representing 15 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member universities may participate in selected academic programs.

The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

Venice International University holds two/three International PhD Academies each year. They are intensive training opportunities open to PhD candidates from the member universities of VIU.

A PhD is the highest diploma awarded by universities in the world, and PhDs are naturally expected to take on major responsibilities in their professional life. Apart from the disciplinary scientific skills acquired during doctoral study and research, it is the ability to respond to the requirements of creativity, innovation and project management, that produce the significant added value of a doctoral degree.

Whether they will work within or outside academia, PhDs must be able to develop a forward-looking vision of the challenges they have to face. The interdisciplinary approach of all VIU activities is adopted also in the PhD Academy, where the participants have the opportunity to meet their peers from all over the world, and to tackle transversal topics.

www.univiu.org/study/phd-academy

Location



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